

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and replaced with new Claims 16 and 17, respectively, which new claims are supported by the canceled claims but which clarify the claimed invention. In addition, the electroconductive metal is recited as --at least one-- therein and in applicable dependent claims, as supported in the specification at [0022].

The new claims have been amended to be consistent with the replacement of Claims 1 and 2 with Claims 16 and 17, where applicable. In addition, Claim 3 has been amended by deleting the superfluous “a material of” and “compounding”. Claim 6 has been amended by deleting the superfluous “compounding”. Claim 7 has been amended by replacing “compounding rate” with --concentration--, and to clarify that the concentration of aluminum that monotonically decreases begins at a depth area of 110 Å or more from the front face of the electroconductive film. Claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the aluminum is only partially evaporated away from the aluminum that is fitted to the heating heat generator. In addition, the electroforming metal is now recited in terms of --at least one--, as supported in the specification at [0023]. Claim 12 has been amended by deleting the superfluous “compounding”. Claim 14 has been amended by inserting a period. Claim 15 has been amended to refer to the metal as the --at least one electroforming-- metal.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 3-17 are now pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment replacing these claims with new Claims 16 and 17.

Regarding Claim 3, the recited ratio is that of the components in the electroconductive film *per se*. (While the Examiner in paragraph 6 of the Office Action refers to Claim 5, this claim would not appear to apply therein.)

Regarding Claim 7, the term “compounding rate” has been replaced with -- concentration--, as discussed above. The term “monotonically decreases” is intended to mean “always decreases”, although not necessarily at a constant or linear rate. The quoted term is demonstrated in, for example, Fig. 11C.

The rejections of Claims 9 and 11 would appear to be moot in view of new Claims 16 and 17.

The rejection of Claim 12 would appear to be moot, since the terms “**left** aluminum” and “**fitted** electroconductive metal” (emphasis added) removes any ambiguity.

The rejections of Claims 14 and 15 would appear to be moot.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the requirement of new application papers in paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the enclosed Substitute Specification, which contains line spacing consistent with 37 CFR 1.52, is identical to the specification as filed in content, except that it incorporates amendments previously made therein. These amendments are shown with a marked-up version of the Substitute Specification according to 37 CFR 1.125 although, since the amendment were previously made, it is not clear if the marked-up version is actually necessary.

Applicants represent that the Substitute Specification contains no new matter.

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Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2006

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the active claims presently-pending in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

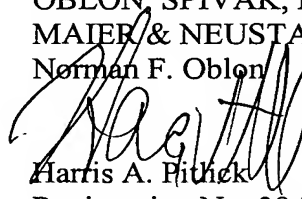
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